
*** * BO TALES * ***

Vol.7 No.1

The Newsletter of the Original Hobo Nickel Society Inc.

February 1998

The Hobo Nickel

by Arlene Kelsey

*Have you seen a Hobo Nickel?
They're really hard to find.
I've heard a lot about them
And been searching for some time.*

*The name explains their origin
For they're by hobos made
And, when given a meal or other need,
Into the givers hand they're laid.*

*These hobos still have their pride,
Though homeless and always roving,
And they found a way they could pay
For a meal or a piece of clothing.*



*There are many and varied artists
Their creations frantically sought.
Some have a natural talent,
Others are painstakingly taught.*

*Two artists are quite well known,
Bo and Bert by name.
What started as a livelihood,
Brought them unexpected fame.*



*The coins are fascinating,
Bearing intricately carved designs;
A face, a turtle or a mule,
involving many hours of time.*

*I've heard of Hobo Nickel auctions, and that's where I plan to go.
You can bet I'll return with a treasure, carved by a very creative hobo.*



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Bill "Zemo" Fivaz CLM #1

If you weren't at the recent FUN convention and OHNS festivities in Orlando this past January, you really missed a great experience! Better make your plans right now to attend next year!

The OHNS table was "manned" by Dallas and Mary Shaw, Don Haley, Ray Flanigan and a new member, my wife, Marilyn "Cookie" Fivaz. We thank them all for the long hours they put in to explain what hobo nickels are to the uninitiated and in general promote the club. And incidently, we signed up about 10 new members and two new Life Members! One new LM, Larry Briggs, also donated an additional \$50.00 to the club. Thanks, Larry! See "Bo-ette's" membership report in this issue and check out what else the 2 LM's received for signing up.

The special give-away at the OHNS table mentioned in the pre-convention announcements was, as they said, unique. I talked my lovely wife Marilyn into making up about 5 gallons of her famous and delicious Mulligan Stew beforehand, and that's what was given out at the table (therefore her moniker, "Cookie"). It was kept frozen until put into the crock pot at the table and then dispensed in paper coffee cups with a spoon. The results were fantastic - we had people stopping over each day for a "fix" for lunch instead of visiting the refreshment stand! If I'm real good to Marilyn the rest of this year, maybe she'll agree to do a repeat performance next year. It was fun!

The auction this year broke all sorts of records. The 69 lots were hammered down for a total of \$18,965, an all time record, with each lot averaging \$275. These prices are exclusive of the 10% commission. A record was also established with 4 coins selling for over \$1000 each. The previous record was broken by Lot #14 (\$1950), and that new figure was topped by Lot #67 at \$2000. However, members should also be very aware that 20 of the 69 lots went for \$100 or less with several under \$50, so there was really something for everyone.

Please read Bo-ette's report for information about the new multi-year membership rates and other matters covered during the general meeting and the board conclave.

Until the next issue, keep the jungle fire a-goin', the mulligan stew hot, and above all, good thoughts for everyone.



NAME THE HOBO CONTEST

Want to win an OHNS Life Membership worth \$250 and have a lot of fun at the same time?! Here's all you do...

At the recent FUN convention, member Archie Taylor (who provided all the information about the tramp chair a few issues back) donated a great original painting of a hobo to the club. He bought it in an estate sale recently, and thought the OHNS might be able to use it in some way. Can we!! Here's the deal...

The board decided this character should be our official "mascot," but he needs a name. We will hold a contest, open to all paid up members except the board, to name this rascal and provide a story behind his name. Just submitting a name won't be enough as you have to write a little story about him as well to qualify.

All entries must be sent to me, Bill Fivaz, at P.O. Box 888660, Dunwoody, GA 30356-0660, by June 30, 1998. The entries will be reviewed and voted upon by the board at the Summer Seminar in mid-July and the winner will be announced in the August issue of Bo Tales.

How easy can it be! Get out your pen (or computer), get your creative juices flowing, and send in your entry. You may be the winner of an OHNS Life Membership!

On your mark ... get set ... GO!!

This Is the Coin That Started it All!!

By Braden Orr RM #425

I was browsing through a local coin shop one day when I sighted this unusual looking Roosevelt dime. At first I thought it was a dime that got screwed up at the mint but when I looked closer I realized that this dime had been altered. (Prior to this I had never seen or heard of a hobo nickel,



let alone a hobo dime!) To me it looks as if Roosevelt is ready to go on a safari. I haven't had the chance to get this coin authenticated yet so I couldn't tell you if it was carved by a hobo or not. Since I got this coin I have purchased more hobo nickels but I have yet to come across anything like it.

To the owner of hobo nickel #R-240



R-240

If you would ever like to sell it, please contact:

Larry Demangote RM #129
P.O. Box 4454
Sparks, NV 89432
phone # 702-673-1011.

classified notice

I have a small Native American artifacts store in Carlsbad, CA and previously (2 years ago) bought and sold hobo nickels. My previous contact no longer carries nickels, and I would like your help in contacting someone here in California, or elsewhere, to purchase some. Anyone you might recommend will be appreciated.


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HOW TO IDENTIFY THE ARTIST OF AN ORIGINAL HOBO NICKEL

(Including Known Unknown Artists)

By Del Romines

Trying to identify the artist of a hobo nickel is extremely hard, and is not something that can be learned from viewing a few coins or reading a few articles. The best method for learning how to identify the different artists is to look at, study and compare as many hobo nickels as possible. Following are just a few hints to keep in mind when trying to identify the various artists.

Most of the carvings by George Washington "Bo" Hughes can be accurately recognized about 90% of the time.. There are some of "Bert's" coins which are erroneously attributed to "Bo," and also some of "Bo's" which have been attributed to Bert. The majority of "Bo's" work can be recognized as genuine from marks left on his coins from his coin holder. As I have told others in the past, I will not explain these markers, nor will I show photographs of the markers. These markers are just about the only thing which has not yet been copied in an attempt to reproduce "Bo's" work.

Besides the coin holder marks, most of "Bo's" work can be fairly well recognized by the tools which he used. On many of his earlier carvings he used very fine gravers which were probably made from small files. On some of his early works he also used a knife. When the two types of work are compared, often the style of the carvings show enough similarities to determine the artist. If the early carvings by knife or graver are just typical hobos, you can normally see the extreme likenesses between the two types.

Even though on both "Bert" and "Bo" early carvings, there are numerous likenesses, there are normally enough differences that they can be separated. On rare occasion, the early "Bo" and "Bert" carvings will have the same markings from the coin holder. Since

"Bert" and "Bo" were together a lot, there is no doubt that they did share the various tools. In cases such as this, you must compare the early works with the later "Bo" works to make a comparison as stated in the previous paragraph.



Carving by George Washington
"Bo" Hughes.

The chisels used by "Bo" in his later years (after the hand injury) were fairly broad tipped, and studies of his later carvings show positive evidence of the chisel tips getting finer as he regained the use of his hand. Probably in the late '60's and early '70's, "Bo's" work almost reached the quality of his early years.

Even though the later fine works of Bo looked almost as good as the earlier works, the differences are notable.

For comparative photographs, use photographs on pages 25-27, and 39-42 in The Hobo Nickel book.

There are occasions when extreme study must be made in attempts to identify a carving as a known artist carving. On page 75 in The Hobo Nickel book, listed under PRISONER NICKEL, there are two photographs which were finally attributed to "Bert." The major differences in the carving of these two coins was the quality of tools and working conditions with which "Bert" had to work.



Another carving attributed to "Bo"

Unless there are some very strong points on other carvings which can be used, identifying Known Unknown artists is extremely difficult, and is probably about 90% guesstimation on most. One such artist is frequently referred to as "Peanut Ear." The work

on these carved/punched coins can be fairly easily recognized. The most prominent feature is the ear which is shaped much the same as a peanut. There are other carvings which have a peanut shaped ear, and if only the ear of these carvings is used for

identification, it would be extremely hard to make a fairly positive statement. There are other points on these carvings which makes it easier to identify "Peanut Ear" carvings. Normally the hat band and collar on these carvings are basically the same. On



Carving by "Peanut Ear."

most copies examined to date, there is one row of hair punched which runs from the ear to the forehead just below the hat brim. At least one copy examined had a row of carved hair instead of punched, but all other known markers were solid. Even on the Peanut ear, you must also remember that this artist may not have made his first carvings to look like all the others, so it may be impossible to identify some of his work, or work of other artists. See page 51 in The Hobo Nickel book for six Peanut Ear carvings.

Another Known Unknown artist's works can be easily recognized by his self portraits. The carvings may or may not have

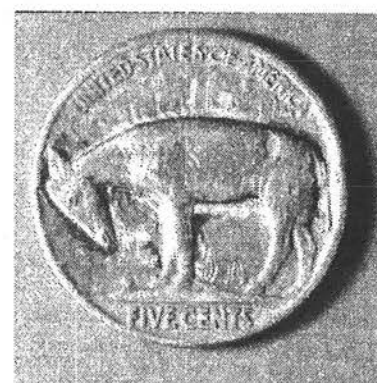


Self Portrait - perhaps of an early itinerant worker.

looked like the artist, but the carvings do look alike. This artist probably was one of the early itinerant workers who turned to the Mid West at the beginning of the Great Depression in attempts to find employment. Besides having a probable self portrait on his coins, he also dated the coins. The earliest dated carving to date is 1929. His carvings (multiples each year) went at least into 1936. Compare the photographs on pages 55 & 86 of The Hobo Nickel book.

It is very difficult to be sure on many of the Known Unknown artists. The main keys are extreme likenesses of the carvings, specific features on most like carvings, coin holding device marks, like tools used for carving or punching, and on rare occasion, initials or names on coins.

A maker of many of the better modern carvings was the late John Dorusa. On most early Dorusa coins examined, hair, the most prominent identifying marker, is punched in. In his later years, he did some feeble completely carved coins. These coins are relatively crude, and do not come up to the same quality as his carved and punched coins of the early to mid 1980's.



Two reverse carvings by John Dorusa.

Basically, the best method of trying to attribute a carving to a known artist or to a known unknown artist is to use the following points:

1. *Like* (not *similar*) features on different coins.
2. Tool markings and types of tools used by the artist.
3. Coin holder marks similar to vise marks.
4. The same wording carved into a coin may be an indication they are done by the same artist, but do not rely heavily on this. It appears that a couple of different artists carved coins with the word ISHKABIBLE. Possibly ISHKABIBLE was carved into the hobo nickels after they were found by someone. This would indicate two different artists on the same coin.
5. Possibly the worst of all general features to try to use are carved initials, names, and/or dates, as they are frequently copied.

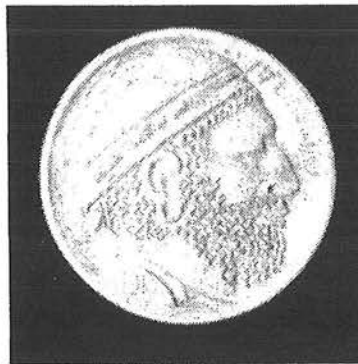
The Fish Was Hooked!

By Norm Talbert RM #38

Thirty-five years ago a coin dealer friend of mine - **Lou Irwin** of **The Money Shop**, told me "You can't be both a dealer and a collector." I agree in principle and do not collect coins. I do however believe that tokens & medals and coins are two separate fields. Being a coin collector turned dealer, I find no conflict between my vocation as a coin dealer and with my hobby collecting Civil War Tokens, Ohio medals and yes - **HOBO NICKELS**.

As a young dealer, I would arrive early (and still do!) in an area for a coin show and visit the coin shops, talking with friends and looking for inventory for resale. During the conversation, I would usually get around to asking, "By the way, do you have any **HOBO NICKELS**?" While my request was sincere, most of the time it was met with ridicule and one time I vividly remember one dealer laughingly saying, "You mean *these* old **mutilated** nickels?" as he shoved a junk box in my direction. Not wanting to offend this **BOZO** who just called my nickels mutilated, I just sat; nodded my head, and smiled. After all, I still wanted the **HOBO's**.

Invariably, most dealers would go to their catch-all place, usually in a desk with the rubber bands, paper clips and pens or to a junk box where items ended up that had no specific place to go. But, after digging through their junk, I knew I had them where I wanted them and could usually get myself buried for \$1.00 to \$5.00 - each. I might add that one time I was thought to be out of my mind for paying \$10.00 for an XF 1913-S type II **HOBO NICKEL**.



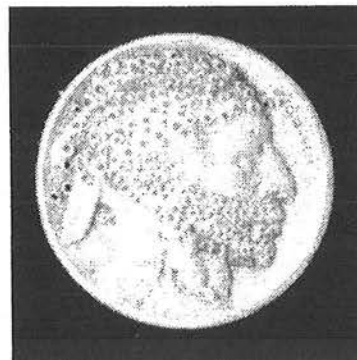
1913 Hobo Nickel by Peanut Ear



1915 "Camel Head" Hobo Nickel



Hobo Nickel with over-lay hat



1918/17 - D Hobo Nickel

One thing led to another and before long, I was starting to look for the various **dates** I didn't have. Then, I got *really silly* and along with the dates, decided to go after the **mints** as well. Knowing of my insane mission, **Mark Borckardt** (with whom I traveled before he took a position with **Bowers & Marena**) came to me at a Long Beach show. The grin on his face told me I was in big trouble. He came up with the "King" of **HOBO NICKELS** - the 1918/17 in almost VF. **THE FISH WAS HOOKED!**

Now I was getting serious! I realized that by just goofing around I had completed over 2/3 of the set of **HOBO NICKELS**, by date and mint mark. I continued my search, but I wanted to assemble the set and certain dates were quite illusive.

At a Pittsburgh (PA) coin show, I was explaining my frustrations to carver **John Dorusa**; (John and I went back many years - but that's another story for a future Bo Tales). John offered to make for me the missing "HOBO's" and blend them in to my collection if I would supply the properly dated nickels. I thanked him for the offer, asked to keep my options open, but wanted to give the hunt a little more time.

Well, you guessed it, a year and zero nickels later, I asked if the offer was still good. I knew it would be, so I bought two of each of the missing dates (just in case), and **John Dorusa** completed my collection.

I only bring my now completed set out every couple of years to show, and only

to a show within driving distance. First, there is the security issue and second, it takes a show case to display the coins and the holder, and that much space can detract from my coin sales. My intention (always good) is to make up a display of HOBO NICKELS and exhibit it at the various shows.

If you see me at a show (I deal under the name of **Great Lakes Coins**) and have any dated HOBO NICKELS in the late teens or twenties for sale, please look me up. I'm always interested in these rascals but do need them in at least average or better grade.

If you do not want to sell, perhaps a trade is in order.

In closing, please remember: you can call my nickels carved, etched, punched, whittled, or chiseled. It's fine to call them engraved, sculptured, cut, carved, pushed or overlayed metal. You can even say they belong in "prison"; but *please*, if you don't want to see a grown man cry, **DO NOT CALL MY NICKELS MUTILATED!!!**



Punched by "Bo"

*All of the pictures for this article were taken by Bill Fivaz



"Two-Leg" Buffalo Hobo Nickel



1938 - S "Jefferson" Nickel



"Dewey in 44"

LETTER OF RESIGNATION

The Officers and Board of Directors of OHNS at their recent meeting in Orlando, FL regrettably acknowledged and accepted a letter of resignation as OHNS authenticator from Del Romines, HCLM #1.

"With some mixed emotions I hereby submit my letter of resignation as an OHNS authenticator for health reasons."

Very respectfully yours,
Del "Slickrock" Romines

Del, Thanks for your years of service to the authentication service of OHNS. Your contributions will be missed.

☞☞☞ Letters ☞☞☞

Dave "Willy" Wilson, RM #2 writes:

A very good movie on the hardship of being a hobo is *Emperor of the North* starring Lee Marvin as the man of the road and Ernest Borgnine as the merciless railroad cop. See if you can find a copy at your video store. You will enjoy it, and gain increased respect for the life style some people, known as hobos, chose to follow.

P.S. – Note to Bill & Del:

Thanks **very much** for being so quick on the previous lot of nickels I sent for authentication!

☞☞☞☞☞

Carmen J. Recce RM #261 writes:

....Gail, I did **not** like your article in *Numisma*, the journal of the Eastern States Numismatic Society. I enjoy the articles in *Bo Tales*.

☞☞☞☞☞

This from Carollee "Cee Bo" Allen:

Greetings and commendations for all the great work the Board Bo's are doing! I just received my newsletter (*Bo Tales*) and read it cover to cover. I was inspired and decided to throw in my 5 cents, too.

The auction catalogue arrived in time for me to take it to my Stanwood, WA coin club's December meeting. A few folks had seen the "slide show" (by Bill Fivaz) a few years back, but the renewed interest sparked by my hobo displays and the auction catalogue was exciting. I am planning to attend the FUN show this January. (*Note from editor – "Cee Bo" did attend, and it was great to meet her!!*) It will be my 2nd adventure to Orlando – and my 1st anniversary as an OHNS member. I will most likely act as an agent (in the OHNS auction) for at least 6 interested parties.

I am writing now to express my happiness with my membership and the subject of our society. I am interested in obtaining a Life Membership if there will be a "special" offer running any time soon. Please keep me informed.

(*Note from editor – again – the Board decided at their meeting NOT to reduce the cost of Life Membership, but we did introduce a multi-year membership - please check the renewal form.*)

Thanks for offering back issues of *Bo Tales* – my order is included!

Wanderfully yours, "Cee Bo"

☞☞☞☞☞

Roy Henderson of Cleveland Ohio writes:

I read your article in the December '97 *Bo Tales*. (*Ethnic-Style Hobo Nickels*, by Gail Baker Kraljevich) As a child, I had several *Yiddish Nickels*. That's how they were referred to in the thirties. I have no idea whatever became of them. I never heard them called *Jew Nickels*. Of course Jew and Yiddish is interchangeable to many people.

At the present time, I have an entire set of Buffalo Nickels. It took the best part of three years to complete. My Hobo Nickel collection consists of twenty-four examples. J. Allen fashioned several of these. She even made one on a 1925 nickel, year of my birth. I have a couple of J.D.'s (John Dorusa) work. The balance are by unknown artists.

I took a couple of my nickels to a nearby coffee shop. Several of the patrons were shocked at what they called defaced coins. We have a long way to go to educate people!.





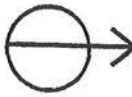

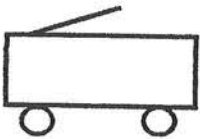
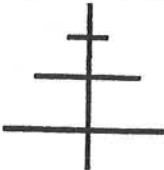



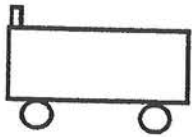




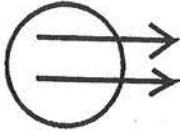

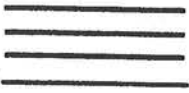



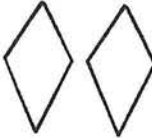
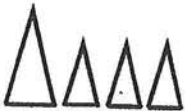
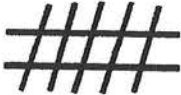


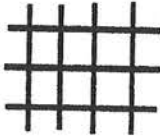
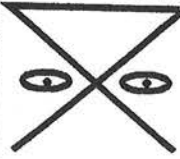
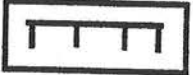

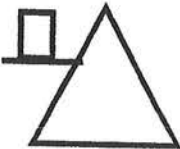
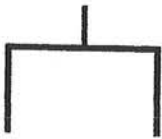


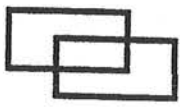





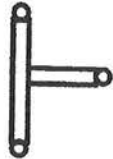
☞☞☞☞☞

Jack Haroian writes:

In one of the *Bo Tales*, you show a T-shirt with the HOBO SIGNS. Any way of finding out what each sign means?

Jack: Glad you asked!

Hobo Signs

					
No Alcohol Town	Chain Gang	Danger	Don't Give Up	Go	Town Allows Alcohol
					
Trolley	Officer	Man with a gun	Doctor	Don't go this way	Railroad
					
Judge	Dog	Nothing doing here	At Crossroad Go This Way	Get Out Fast	Good For a Handout
					
Housewife feeds for chores	Poor Man	Dishonest Man	Kindhearted Lady	Be Quiet	Tell Pitiful Story
					
Unsafe Place	Cops Inactive	Cops Active	Jail (yeggs)	Safe Camp	Bad Dog
					
Tramps Here	Wealthy	Here is the place	Keep away	Talk religion get food	Afraid
					
Be ready to defend yourself	Allright (Ok)	Gentleman	Food for working	Doubtful	Easy mark

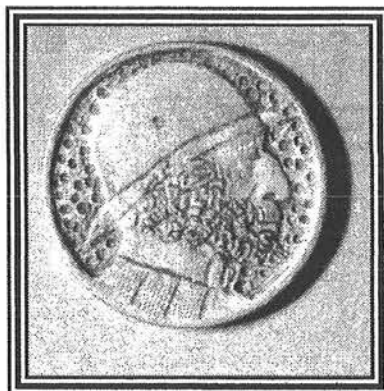
BO TALES SAVED ME FROM MAKING A COSTLY MISTAKE!

By Steve Berenhaus RM #393

I joined the **Original Hobo Nickel Society** close to a year ago, not owning a single hobo nickel! I did buy a “neo-bo” knowing it was a new work done with an electric engraver, but I longed for a “real” original hobo nickel. I joined so that I could study the photos in the auction catalogue, read *Bo Tales*, and learn whatever I could.



Steve's Hobo Nickel from the Bill Fivaz Collection.



Another Hobo Nickel with the Fivaz Pedigree

I'm happy to say that last August, at the New York ANA show, I purchased not one, but two beautiful originals. And better still – they came from **Bill Fivaz's** collection!

The above story was all I thought I had to say until I attended a small coin show here in Long Island. I spotted an interesting hobo nickel that had Uncle Sam carved in the “original” techniques. The seller didn't know if the carving was old or not, but he had it priced as if it was. I didn't know what to make of the counterstamp on the reverse, as I had not encountered any such counterstamp in my brief experience. I took his card, with the idea of buying it at a later date. When I received my August copy of *Bo Tales*, I read of the carvings of **J. Allen** and realized that the stamp and carving were hers. I can appreciate craftsmanship, be it old or new, and I may buy some of her work if I have the chance, but that article in *Bo Tales* saved me from making a costly mistake!

****NOTE --** The pictures accompanying this article were taken by **Bill Fivaz**, who also confirmed the pedigree of the pieces. **Steve** wrote: “*What I did to insure the accuracy of this article is a story in itself! Bill was very nice, writing back and forth, and he took beautiful photos for free, because I wrote an article for Bo Tales. It was a thrill for me to correspond with such a well-known numismatic personality.*”



Modern Hobo Nickel by J. Allen



Another J. Allen hand-tooled design

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Gail Baker "Bo-ette" Kraljevich
abibaker@erols.com

Please welcome the following new members:

Name	From the Great State Of:	Number	Sponsor
Clements Coin Club	TX	Club #3	donation
Michael Sexton	CT	RM #447	Dave "Willy" Wilson
Robert "Scotty" Ray	MA	RM #448	
Glen Carpenter	PA	RM #449	Dave "Willy" Wilson
Ernest Buckles	CO	RM #450	
James Essence	WI	RM #451	Del "Slickrock" Romines
George Crews	MO	RM #452	
Harold Theard	LA	RM #453	
Francis Curran	CT	RM #454	
Maury "Nick" Nichols	GA	RM #455	
Doug "Zepp" Thurber	WA	RM #456	Carollee "CeeBo" Allen
Steve Salbego	NM	RM #457	
Marilyn "Cookie" Fivaz	GA	RM #458	Bill "Cookie Lover" Fivaz
Tom Martin	NC	RM #475	OHNS Table @ FUN
Bob Polk	FL	RM #476	OHNS Table @ FUN
W.W. "Bill" Rutledge	TX	RM #477	OHNS Table @ FUN
Bob Rosenfeld	RI	RM #478	OHNS Table @ FUN
David "Tracter Man" Cieniewicz	AL	RM #479	OHNS Table @ FUN
Dianne Kirsch	FL	RM #480	OHNS Table @ FUN

and the following new LIFE MEMBERS:

David Silver	NJ	LM #27
John "Big John" Wilson	WI	LM #28
Larry "Briggsie" Briggs	OH	LM #29

The Original Hobo Nickel Society has 355 active members.

Please pay your dues as soon as possible and help eliminate more paper work!!

NEW!!! SAVE \$\$\$

The Board of Directors approved the following multi-year membership rates for Regular members:

5 years @ \$40.00 3 years @ \$25.00

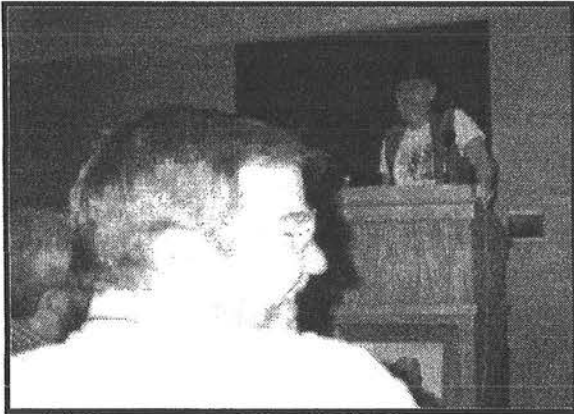
They also introduced an **ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP** @ \$5.00 per year. This is for hobos living at the same address as a Regular or Life member. An Associate member will have *full voting privileges*, but will not receive the newsletter or auction catalogue.

If you have already renewed for 1998, but feel you want to take advantage of the new multi-year rates, just drop me at line at P.O. Box 1409, Malvern, PA 19355 with details. I'll be glad to apply what you have already paid -- but this applies only to 1998 renewals!!

Please take a few minutes to read the *Bo Tales* and Auction Catalogue submission information in the back of the newsletter. These dates are pretty firm and your cooperation is appreciated.

Remember, articles for *Bo Tales* help to qualify you for a scholarship to the ANA Summer Seminar!!!

Hobos Headed South to F.U.N. 1998



J.T. "Bubba" Stanton makes sure the camera catches his best angle while Bill Fivaz calls the 69 lot hobo nickel auction.



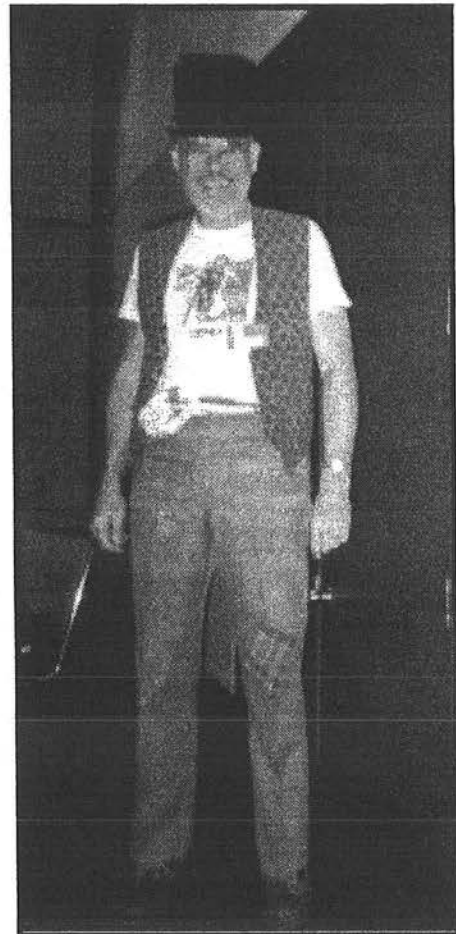
OHNS Treasurer Dallas Shaw listens intently while President Bill Fivaz asks for an increase to his clothing allowance.



Everyone's favorite hobo Chuck "Buddha" Irwin and girlfriend "Squirrely Shirley" are obviously having too much fun.

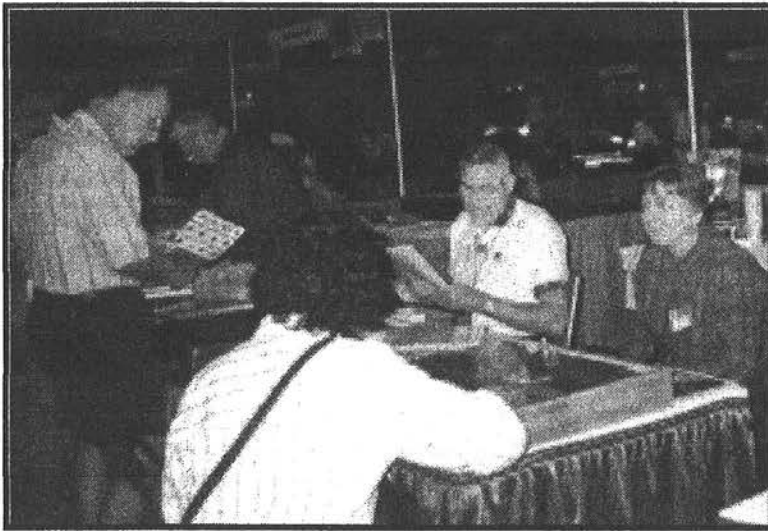


Buddha shares a joke with Gail "Bo-ette" Kraljevich while Ray "Erie" Flanigan, feeling left out, sucks his thumb in the background. Bill just keeps smiling. (What was in that Muligan Stew?)



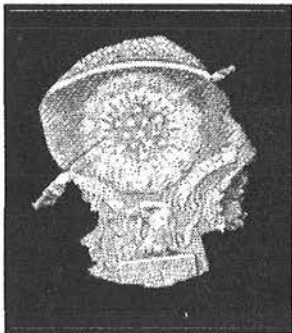
Retirement has been hard on Bill!

More F.U.N. in Orlando!



At the OHNS Table, Mary "Scrub" Shaw discusses the history of Hobo Nickels while Bill Fivaz admires his hairy reflection in the glass.

The OHNS Auction # 6 was an astounding success!



Silhouette of hobo struck through \$1.00.

FOR NEW LIFE MEMBERS!

For a limited time, new Life members will receive a \$1.00 bill and a 1996-P Jefferson Nickel struck again using the Hobo Nickel Token dies (obverse and reverse) designed by Ron Landis. The unique feature is that the \$1.00 was placed between the coin and the obverse die prior to striking, and the coin/token was struck through it! The result is a coin showing both the Jefferson and Hobo

Nickel designs, as well as a silhouette of the hobo which was punched out of the dollar bill. On the silhouette you can see the impressed date and most of the features of the hobo.

Life Membership in OHNS is \$250.00. Please check the new membership renewal rates in the back of this newsletter and **PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES!**

HOBO NICKEL BOOKS by Del and Joyce Romines and OHNS Token Available!

OHNS has received a small supply of Hobo Nickel Books # I (the reprint) and # II! These are available on a first-come, first-served basis to OHNS members for \$25.00 each, including postage and an **OHNS Hobo Nickel token struck by Ron Landis of the Gallery Mint!** Tokens are also available separately at \$10.00 each.

Please send checks made payable to OHNS to: Original Hobo Nickel Society, P.O. Box 1409, Malvern, PA 19355.

OHNS Auction # 6 Prices Realized

January 10, 1998

Lot #	1	\$ 105	Lot #	36	\$ 93
	2	625		37	50
	3	125		38	25
	4	130		39	100
	5	400		40	350
	6	25		41	150
	7	85		42	55
	8	160		43	350
	9	150		44	200
	10	120		45	130
	11	180		46	125
	12	140		47	175
	13	775		48	75
	14	1950		49	160
	15	1100		50	160
	16	100		51	102
	17	160		52	140
	18	110		53	425
	19	230		54	250
	20	95		55	190
	21	160		56	190
	22	300		57	120
	23	110		58	225
	24	30		59	650
	25	50		60	325
	26	30		61	250
	27	30		62	200
	28	40		63	800
	29	25		64	230
	30	85		65	1000
	31	20		66	950
	32	75		67	2000
	33	25		68	240
	34	160		69	300
	35	275		TOTAL \$ 18,965	

Ads For *Bo Tales*

The Board of Directors approved the following advertisement policy and rates for display ads:

OHNS Advertisement Policy & Rates

1. Prices quoted are for camera ready display copy.
2. Graphic layout & design @ \$25.00 per hour is available.
3. Pictures or graphics are encouraged.
4. Payment in full must be submitted with ads. Make checks payable to Original Hobo Nickel Society.
5. All ads must be related to hobo nickels or associated materials or subject matter.
6. Dealers must adhere to our Code of Ethics.
7. Mail to OHNS - P.O. Box 1409, Malvern, PA 19355

	Annual - 4 Publications	Single Issue - BoTales	Single - Auction Catalogue
Full Page Ad	\$225.00	\$100.00	\$125.00
Full Page w/Cover	\$250.00	XX	XX
Half Page Ad	\$150.00	\$75.00	\$100.00
Quarter Page Ad	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$75.00
Inside Cover	XX	XX	\$175.00

Advertisement space is limited!!

Please check for availability when considering Full Page and/or Auction Cover!

Camera ready copy must be received **one month** before the target publication date.

Douglas F. Bird

P.O. Box 608
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254
310-374-1764

US EARLY COPPER

* Large Cents * Half Cents * Colonials *
High Grade Type Coins
and

Hobo Nickels



Spectacular Modern Carvings by Ron Landis

sample
ads

smaller
than
¼
page

Bill "Zemo" Fivaz

P.O. Box 888660
Dunwoody, GA 30356-0660

770-396-6125

United States Coins



Error and Variety Specialist

**Love Tokens
&
Hobo Nickels**



Sometimes The Authenticators Do Not Agree!

DEF-001



Bald headed & large nosed hobo.

Authentication Number: DEF-001

First Authenticator: Delma Romines

Quality: Above Average Neo-bo

Comments:

The highly polished field does not have the metal texture which is normal for a coin over 15 years old. Very recent shiny scratch marks can be seen beneath all of the hair. Recent wire brush marks are also visible. Even though a neo-bo, it is expertly done and has nice eye appeal.

Second Authenticator: Don Farnsworth

Quality: Average Original

Comments:

"Bearded man wearing a jewel" Punched hair and hairline; rest of coin carved after coin was smoothed out by buffing. The recent shiny scratch marks on the head are probably the result of cleaning the coin several years later. In my opinion, it is an average original hobo nickel carved on a low grade buffalo nickel.

Third Authenticator: Gail Kraljevich

Quality: Average Original

Comments:

This is not the typical work of any of the known modern artists. Buffed, carved and polished.

Date of Coin: no date **Mint Mark:** none

Probable Artist: unknown

Grade: low grade

Method: carved

DEF-002



"The Pilot," possibly Charles A. Lindbergh.

Authentication Number: DEF-002

First Authenticator: Delma Romines

Quality: Above Average Neo-bo

Comments:

A carving with very nice eye appeal, but the metal has positive signs of recent very fine wire brushing, polishing, and some surfaces with fresh chisel marks. The total lack of toning on the polished surfaces indicates the coin may have been made, or at least polish altered in the past five years (probably more recent).

Second Authenticator: Don Farnsworth

Quality: Superior Original

Comments:

A beautiful carving. The field is well-dressed and appears original. The outline of the head and shoulders also appear original. The fine lines in the hat do show some bright metal and is inconsistent with the rest of the carving, but is not strong enough to remove this coin from the "original hobo carving" category, in my opinion. How the coin was stored and preserved after the carving can explain the lack of toning on the obverse, which were carved several years after the coin was circulated and stored.

Third Authenticator: Gail Kraljevich

Quality: Above Average Original

Comments:

Beautiful hand carved coin. Certainly not one of the mass-produced modern carvings. (But, probably not done over a campfire either!)

Date of Coin: 1926 **Mint Mark:** none

Probable Artist: unknown

Grade: Fine

Method: carved

Sometimes The Authenticators Do Not Agree!

F-057



Bearded man with derby.

Authentication Number: F-057

First Authenticator: Bill Fivaz

Quality: Below Average Original

Comments:

"Carving" appears to have been done with a sharp instrument other than a knife or chisel, possibly a nail. Triangular design around the eye, and many smoothed (polished) surfaces. Probably done in the 30's or 40's.

Second Authenticator: Delma Romines

Quality: Average Neo-bo

Comments:

Highly polished, areas of whizzing, and texture of metal in cut areas all have texture consistent with recent (probably since 1992-93) work.

Third Authenticator: Gail Kraljevich

Quality: Below Average Original

Comments:

Even though this coin has been polished, the style, overall condition of the coin, and the subject of the carving lead me to believe this is an original carving.

Date of Coin: 1923 **Mint Mark:** P

Probable Artist: unknown

Grade: AU

Method: carved & punched

F-064



Bearded man with mustache
wearing a derby hat.

Authentication Number: F-064

First Authenticator: Bill Fivaz

Quality: Below Average Original

Comments:

Carved piece with punched beard. Crude attempt at designing an ear which is set way too far forward. Subject is smoking a "fag," with smoke rising from end. Date is so bold and prominent it could have been done in that year.

Second Authenticator: Delma Romines

Quality: Above Average Neo-bo

Comments:

Visible cut metal has probably not been exposed to the elements for over five years. Extraneous material (especially in the ear) appears to be a mixture of cigarette ashes, graphite, an unknown substance & oily base.

Third Authenticator: Gail Kraljevich

Quality: Average Original

Comments:

Average original hobo nickel, not a mass produced modern carving.

Date of Coin: 1918 **Mint Mark:** P

Probable Artist: unknown

Grade: VF

Method: carved & punched

Sometimes The Authenticators Do Not Agree!

F-162



Domed hat hobo.

Authentication Number: F-162

First Authenticator: Delma Romines

Quality: Below Average

Neo-bo

Comments:

Recently cut metal texture indicate this coin is a fairly recent carving.

Second Authenticator: Bill Fivaz

Quality: Above Average

Original

Comments:

I feel this is an original carving by a relatively talented artist. It appears that a broad-tipped chisel was used for most of the dressing in the field. The patina also suggests that it's an original piece.

Third Authenticator: Don Farnsworth

Quality: Above Average

Original

Comments:

I could not detect evidence of recently cut metal. The patina of the obverse matches that of the reverse. To me, this means that the coin may have been carved in the mid to late forties.

Date of Coin: 1937 **Mint Mark:** ?

Probable Artist: unknown

Grade: Fine

Method: carved & chiseled

F-168



Goateed man wearing domed hat.

Authentication Number: F-168

First Authenticator: Bill Fivaz

Quality: Below Average

Original

Comments:

While there appears to be a lot of "fresh" metal on this piece, I still feel it is an original. Interestingly, there also appears to be extra metal (lead?) built up on the hat, hat brim, ear and chin.

Second Authenticator: Delma Romines

Quality: Below Average

Neo-bo

Comments:

Most surfaces appear to be new scratches. Extraneous materials on obverse are not compatible with the reverse.

Third Authenticator: Don Farnsworth

Quality: Below Average

Original

Comments:

The hat and brim were carved from lead that had been (soldered?) onto the nickel. The softer lead was easier to carve than the hard nickel alloy. The goatee and mustache were scratched in. Minimal work was done on this below average carving. The new scratches are the result of cleaning. The nickel weighted in at 5.3 grams which is heavier than the normal 4.9 grams.

Date of Coin: 1916 **Mint Mark:** P

Probable Artist: unknown

Grade: AU

Method: carved

Sometimes The Authenticators Do Not Agree!

F-176



"Street Jeweler"
Bearded man with domed hat,
stickpin (jeweled) in collar.

Authentication Number: F-176

First Authenticator: Bill Fivaz

Quality: Above Average Original

Comments:

Very nearly superior. Totally carved with curly beard and zigzag design on hat band. Has some characteristics of "Bo's" work. Field partially dressed behind, over and in front of head. Profile unchanged.

Second Authenticator: Delma Romines

Quality: Above Average Neo-bo

Comments:

All cut marks, tone & texture appear to be relatively recent. Extraneous materials in hair appears to be a recently applied oil base with possibly graphite for the darkener.

Third Authenticator: Don Farnsworth

Quality: Above Average Original

Comments:

Carved on a choice XF P nickel, subject is a bearded, jeweled man in a domed hat. Entire coin, including the beard, is carved. Art work is above average. A desirable piece to own.

Date of Coin: no date **Mint Mark:** P

Probable Artist: unknown

Grade: AU

Method: carved

Neo-bo



Long hair & bearded man with
derby.

Authentication Number: Neo-bo

First Authenticator: Bill Fivaz

Quality: Average Original

Comments:

One of the few hobo nickels seen on a Liberty nickel. Flat brimmed hat, long hair in front and back of ear; totally carved, probably by artist with initials "F.B." (carved into reverse). Portrait and areas in front and behind have been abraded, leaving dark areas around stars, date, etc...

Second Authenticator: Delma Romines

Quality: Average Neo-bo

Comments:

Heavily abraded surfaces and what appears to be "cooked in" extraneous material on entire coin indicates recent manufacturing. Edge of coin has some typical heat toning showing through material.

Third Authenticator: Gail Kraljevich

Quality: Average Neo-bo

Comments:

I have no doubt this is a recently done piece. It shows many signs of a "neo-bo" by Frank Brazzell. The surfaces were abraded before the design elements were cut into this low grade coin. Many similar examples can be easily found.

Date of Coin: 1911 **Mint Mark:** none

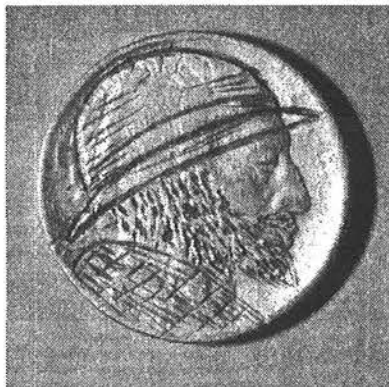
Probable Artist: Frank Brazzell

Grade: low grade

Method: machined

Sometimes The Authenticators Do Not Agree!

Neo-bo



Bearded man with domed hat

Authentication Number: Neo-bo

First Authenticator: Bill Fivaz

Quality: Below Average Original

Comments:

This appears to be totally knife carved with some areas that appear to have been done with a small crude chisel or graver

Second Authenticator: Delma Romines

Quality: Below Average Neo-bo

Comments:

Very recent cut metal surfaces in the field, and recent scratches in hair and on shoulder indicate recent work.

Third Authenticator: Don Farnsworth

Quality: Below Average Neo-bo

Comments:

Rotation of the coin under the light reveals shiny surfaces on the knife carved scratches. Even the areas done by a small chisel appear shiny. Therefore, I believe that the carving is recent. The artwork is, in my opinion, a high end below average.

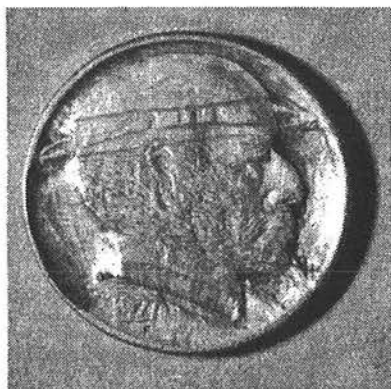
Date of Coin: no date **Mint Mark:** none

Probable Artist: unknown

Grade: low grade

Method: knife carved

Neo-bo



Domed hat hobo.

Authentication Number: Neo-bo

First Authenticator: Delma Romines

Quality: Average Neo-bo

Comments:

Virtually all cut areas appear to be very recently cut. The hair appears to have been recently scratched in. Coin does have some nice eye appeal.

Second Authenticator: Bill Fivaz

Quality: Above Average Original

Comments:

I believe this is an original carving. The cuts, when viewed at a sharp angle appear to be consistent with an old carving and the "bright metal" is not a problem for me as it could have been cleaned within the last 10 years.

Third Authenticator: Don Farnsworth

Quality: Above Average Neo-bo

Comments:

In my opinion, this is a recently carved nickel, done on a VF 1927. The metal seems freshly cut. I also believe that a machine was used to obtain the deep carving behind the neck. Quality of work is above average.

Date of Coin: 1927 **Mint Mark:** none

Probable Artist: unknown

Grade: XF

Method: carved & scratched

Hobo Nickel Collage

The collage on the cover of the last issue of Bo Tales drew quite a bit of attention. The picture was produced from an original picture by Bill Fivaz and is currently hanging on the wall in your editor's living room.

Young Numismatist Jake Wood liked the cover so much, he suggested OHNS produce a similar collage in poster size and offer it to members.



Collage on the cover of the
December Bo Tales

President Bill Fivaz, responded to this great suggestion with gusto! At the FUN convention he introduced a new collage, available in a variety of sizes, for sale to members. Proceeds from the sale of the collage posters and post cards will benefit OHNS and the scholarship fund.

Do you recognize any of the coins?

Hobo Nickel Collage by Bill Fivaz available in post cards & posters to OHNS members.

24"X36"
Poster Size
\$50.00

20"X30"
Poster Size
\$35.00

16"X20"
Poster Size
\$25.00



12"X18"
Poster Size
\$20.00

8"X12"
8"X10"
Poster Size
\$10.00

Post Cards
\$1.50 each

Postage is included in above prices!

Please send check made payable to OHNS and description of order to:

Bill Fivaz

P.O. Box 888660

Dunwoody, GA 30356-0660

OHNS Publications Submission Deadlines

Submissions	Publication	February BoTales	May BoTales	August BoTales	Nov. BoTales & Auction Catalogue
Coins to be Photographed (send to Bill Fivaz)		January 1	April 1	July 1	September 20
Articles, Letters, Pictures, News Items, etc. send to Gail- PO Box 1409 Malvern PA 19355		January 15 (after FUN)	April 1	July 15	October 15
Ads (submit camera ready with check)		January 15	April 15	August 1	November 1
Authenticated Coins for Jan. FUN Auction					October 15
Target Publication Date		February 15	May 15	Aug 31	Thanksgiving

OHNS Advertisement Policy & Rates

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- Dealers must adhere to our Code of Ethics.
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	Annual - 4 Publications	Single Issue - BoTales	Single - Auction Catalogue
Full Page Ad	\$225.00	\$100.00	\$125.00
Full Page w/Cover	\$250.00	XX	XX
Half Page Ad	\$150.00	\$75.00	\$100.00
Quarter Page Ad	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$75.00
Inside Cover	XX	XX	\$175.00

Back Issues Of BoTales Available for Sale - \$3.00 each

- ☐ August 1992 (reprint only) Vol. 1 No. 1
- ☐ April 1993 Vol. 2 No. 1
- ☐ Fall 1993 Vol. 2 No. 2
- ☐ Winter 1993 Vol. 2 No. 3
- ☐ July 1995 Vol. 4 No. 2
- ☐ December 1995 Vol. 4 No. 3
- ☐ April 1996 Vol. 5 No. 1
- ☐ August 1996 Vol. 5 No. 2
- ☐ April 1997 Vol. 6 No. 1

- ☐ August 1997 Vol. 6 No. 2
- ☐ November 1997 Vol. 6 No. 3

Action Catalogues - \$3.00 each (inc. prices realized)

- ☐ January 1995 Auction # 1 FUN
- ☐ January 1996 Auction # 3 FUN
- ☐ August 1996 Auction # 4 Denver ANA
- ☐ January 1997 Auction # 5 FUN
- ☐ January 1998 Auction # 6 FUN

Make checks payable to Original Hobo Nickel Society & mail to: P.O. Box 1409, Malvern, PA 19355

ORIGINAL HOBO NICKEL SOCIETY, INC.
FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR 1997

Beginning Balance - General Fund	\$ 4008.10
Beginning Balance - Scholarship Fund	5308.00
Certificate of Deposit	2502.22

General Fund Revenues

Dues, new members	480.00	
Dues, renewals	1565.00	
Merchandise Sales	305.00	
Authentication	3185.00	
Auction Commission	1990.28	
Donations	409.00	
Interest (Bank Account)	<u>9.55</u>	
 Total Revenue		 \$ 7943.83

General Fund Expenses

Supplies	270.81	
Postage	1438.75	
Bo Tales	2843.36	
Authentication	1752.34	
Bank Fees (Returned Checks)	45.00	
Table Fee (FUN)	125.00	
Bank Fee (Checks)	13.25	
Dues (ANA, FUN 1997&98)	96.00	
Incorporation Fees	131.25	
CPA Fee	75.00	
Miscellaneous	35.00	
Auction Catalogs (FUN98) *	<u>1529.10</u>	
 Total Expenses		 \$ 8354.86

Scholarship Expenses (Two ANA 1997 Scholarships)	\$ 1000.00
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Closing Balance - General Fund	3597.07
Closing Balance - Scholarship Fund	4308.00
Certificate of Deposit	2690.05

Total Balance On Hand	\$ 10595.12
-----------------------	-------------

Net Change - General Fund	(S 411.03) *
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* Not really a true picture for 1997 because a 1998 expense, Auction Catalogs \$1529.10, was paid in 1997. This expense will be offset by 1998 auction income. If the Auction Catalogs expense is disregarded for 1997, the net change for the General Fund is \$ 1118.07.



THE ORIGINAL HOBO NICKEL SOCIETY, Inc.

P.O. BOX 1409 • MALVERN, PA 19355

HOBO NICKEL AUTHENTICATION SUBMISSION FORM



Submissions will be reviewed by at least two authenticators who will give independent opinions on the originality, type, method(s), artist, condition and quality of the carving. Each coin will be photographed and described. Carvings considered to be original (not modern) will be registered and numbered. **Please submit one form with each coin to one of the following authenticators:**

Bill Fivaz
P.O. Box 888660
Dunwoody, GA 30356-0660

Gail Baker Kraljevich
P.O. Box 1409
Malvern, PA 19355

Owner's name: _____ OHNS Membership # _____

Address: _____

Owner's value of coin (this information is necessary for insurance): \$ _____

Members: \$15.00 per coin* or ten or more coins - \$12.50 per coin* **Non-members: \$25.00 per coin***

*Includes postage and insurance up to \$100.00. If you desire additional insurance, indicate the amount and include the additional cost.

I understand that the opinions rendered are strictly that, opinions, and are not a guarantee that the item is genuine. It is however, the best considered judgement by qualified specialists in the area, but others may reach different conclusions.

☐ I authorize OHNS to use a photograph of this coin. ☐ I authorize OHNS to use my name (not address).

Signature of Submitter _____

Date _____

Please make all checks payable to: Original Hobo Nickel Society



THE ORIGINAL HOBO NICKEL SOCIETY, Inc.

P.O. BOX 1409 • MALVERN, PA 19355

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM



- ☐ Please enroll me as a member in the Original Hobo Nickel Society, Inc. as indicated.
- ☐ Please renew my membership (member number _____) as indicated.
- ☐ 5 years @ \$40 ☐ 3 years @ \$25 ☐ 1 year @ \$10
- ☐ Life @ \$250 ☐ Youth under 19 @ \$5 ☐ Associate @ \$5 (no mailings)

I am also enclosing a donation of _____ for the OHNS Scholarship program.

Name: _____ Moniker (Nickname): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

I agree to abide by the Society's Code of Ethics.

Signature of Candidate _____

Sponsor's Name _____

YOU'RE BOARD (But We're Not!)

Chief Cook & Bottle Washer	Bill "Zemo" Fivaz
Town Crier & Keeper of the Campfire	Ray "Erie" Flanigan
Head Scribbler	Gail "Bo-ette" Kraljevich
Trouble Maker	Chuck "Buddha" Irwin
Bean Counter	Dallas "Colonel" Shaw
Night Watch	James "Dictator" Taylor
	J.T. "Bubba" Stanton
	Don "Sport" Farnsworth
Instigator	Del "Slickrock" Romines
Know-It-Alls	Bill "Zemo" Fivaz
	Gail "Bo-ette" Kraljevich
	Don "Sport" Farnsworth
	Dave "Willy" Wilson

*If it's wrong, blame "Bubba" ☼ PO Box 15487 ☼ Savannah GA 31416-2187
1-800-889-3714*

ORIGINAL HOBO NICKEL SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. BOX 1409
Malvern, PA 19355

Dues for 1998 are due now!
